



# The Blue Ridge Parkway

## Virginia Portions

### Miles 0 – 216.9

"The Blue Ridge Parkway is more than a road – it's a beautiful journey that entices visitors to explore a 469-mile gateway to America's rich cultural heritage including Cherokee traditions, music, crafts, agriculture and nature. Your journey is just around the corner! The Blue Ridge Parkway is a National Park operated by the National Park Service"

**Green Statement:** "We decided to join Virginia Green in support of the Virginia Green Challenge to honor the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Blue Ridge Parkway."

### CORE ACTIVITIES for Green Attractions

☒ **Recycling.** Virginia Green facilities must have highly-visible locations/containers that provide the opportunity for guests to recycle aluminum cans, plastic and glass bottles, or other disposable products purchased at the facility. Recycling of cardboard, plastic, paper, and composting of waste foods is highly encouraged as well. This facility pledges that they:

- Offer the opportunity for guests to recycle: glass bottles, plastic bottles, aluminum cans
- Also recycle: steel cans, newspaper, office paper, toner cartridges, cardboard, fluorescent lamps, batteries, electronic equipment

☒ **Minimize the use of disposable food service products.** The facility is required to minimize the use of disposable food service products and maximize the use of food service products that are recyclable or compostable in the food service area. When disposable food service items are used, the facility is encouraged to use products that are made from bio-based or renewable resources, and to provide for the collection / recycling/ composting of food service items disposed of on the premises. This facility pledges that they:

- Use disposable foodservice items that are made with recycled content

☒ **Reduce solid waste.** The facility must be actively working to reduce its solid waste generation. This facility pledges that they:

- Track overall solid waste costs

*Kitchen (or during meetings/events)*

- Recycle fryer grease
- Have an effective food inventory control system to minimize waste

*Dining room (or during meetings/events)*

- Use cloth napkins
- Use non-bleached napkins and coffee filters
- Provide condiments, cream and sugar, etc. in bulk
- Use water pitchers to minimize the use of single-use bottles

#### *Restrooms*

- Use bulk soap dispensers in public restrooms
- Use high-efficiency hand-dryers
- Purchase recycled-content paper-towels and toilet paper

#### *Office*

- Reuse scrap paper for notes
- Purchase recycled paper with a high-percentage recycled content
- Make double-sided photocopies and avoid making extra photocopies
- Use electronic correspondence and forms when possible

#### *Buildings and grounds*

- Use green cleaning products that are dispensed in bulk
- Use latex low or no-VOC paints
- Re-use paint thinners
- Properly recycle and/or dispose of thinners and solvents (required by law)
- Perform preventative maintenance on all appliances, HVAC systems, plumbing, and vehicles
- Use integrated pest management (IPM)
- Minimize use of pesticides and herbicides in landscaping

- ☒ **Use water efficiently.** The facility must have a plan in place and have taken steps toward reducing its water use. This facility pledges that they:
- Track overall water usage and wastewater costs

#### *Activities indoors*

- Perform preventative maintenance to stop drips and leaks
- Have installed:
  - High efficiency dishwashers
  - Low flow faucets and showerheads (use less than 2.5 gallons per minute)
  - Low flow toilets (use 1.6 gallons per flush or less)

#### *Activities outdoors*

- Have minimized our lawn area
- Have minimized impervious areas (paving, concrete, etc.)
- Have installed rain barrels
- Maintain vegetative buffers around streams and ponds

- ☒ **Conserve energy.** The facility must have a plan in place and have taken steps toward reducing its energy use. This facility pledges that they:
- Track overall energy bills
  - Have established a numeric goal to reduce energy usage over time
  - Calculate the environmental impacts of the facility's energy usage by using a pollution calculator

#### *Heating and cooling*

- Have individual thermostats for each room; ensure they are correctly adjusted
- Have installed ceiling fans
- Have installed ENERGY STAR-rated windows and doors
- Regularly perform preventative maintenance on HVAC system

#### *Lighting*

- Use natural lighting
- Have adopted a policy/practice to turn off lights in unoccupied rooms
- Have installed compact fluorescent light bulbs in all rooms and canned lighting
- Have installed LED Exit Signs

- Have installed directional (downward-facing) lighting in parking areas and other outdoor areas

*Appliances and electronic devices*

- Use ENERGY STAR qualified appliances (commercial kitchens, heating and cooling, consumer electronics)
- Use ENERGY STAR qualified office equipment (computers, monitors, copiers, printers, etc.)
- Have adopted a policy/practice to turn off fans, computers, monitors and other devices in unoccupied rooms at the end of the workday or when otherwise not being used

- ☒ **Green Events Package.** The facility must offer a “green” or “environmentally-friendly” package for conferences, meetings and other events. Even if the facility only offers occasional, small events, at least recycling will be provided. This facility pledges that they:
- Recycling, minimal use of disposables, and emphasis on ‘low-impact’ events

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For more information on The Blue Ridge Parkway, see [www.blueridgeparkway.org](http://www.blueridgeparkway.org) or contact Mike Molling at [Michael\\_Molling@nps.gov](mailto:Michael_Molling@nps.gov) or 828-271-4779 ext. 214 or Lisa Davis at [Lisa\\_Davis@nps.gov](mailto:Lisa_Davis@nps.gov) or 828-271-4779 ext. 204.

**Virginia Green** is the Commonwealth of Virginia’s campaign to promote environmentally-friendly practices in all aspects of Virginia’s tourism industry. **Virginia Green Attractions** have been thoughtfully planned and designed to minimize their impacts on the environment. This attraction has met the established “core activities” for **Green Attractions** and has committed to communicate its activities to its guests.

For more information on **Virginia Green** program, see [www.deq.virginia.gov/p2/viriniagreen](http://www.deq.virginia.gov/p2/viriniagreen) or [www.viriniagreentravel.org](http://www.viriniagreentravel.org).



Virginia Green is supported through a partnership between the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, the Virginia Hospitality & Travel Association, and the Virginia Tourism Corporation.

